of the following papers.—

(i) Ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, together with the Audit Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

(iii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above [Placed on Library *See* No. L.T. 13396]

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Depositories Bill, 1996

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Depositories Bill, 1996, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th July, 1996."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE CENTRAL SILK BOARD

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

"That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948 (61 of 1948) read with sub-rule 2 of rule 5, of the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955, this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of the House to be a member of the Central Silk Board in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Shri P. Upendra from the membership of Rajya Sabha on the 9th April, 1996."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Sir, I beg to move the followig motion.

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 (19 of 1963), this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, four members from among the members of the House to be the members of the Committee on Official Language in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Chaudhary Harmohan Singh, Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur, Shri S.B. Chavan and Prof. I.G. Sanadi from the membership of Rajya Sabha."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Now, we will take up the Zero Hour business... *(Interruptions)*.. Shri Ashok Mitra. Please be very brief. Yesterday you made a mention. Today I am giving you only one minute.

RE: FALL IN EXTERNAL VALUE OF THE RUPEE

SHRI ASHOK MITRA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, you will kindly remember that yesterday, I drew your attention to the steep fall in the external value of the rupee that has been taking place over the past few years. It is because the Government that was in power, last year, in the month of October, allowed the value of the rupee to decline against the dollar by 15 to 20 per cent that we are now facing the predicament of the rise in petroleum prices. If the value of our rupee declines, foreigners gain, we lose. Our goods become cheap to the foreigners and foreign goods become dearer to us.